WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 OCTOBER 1992

# WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Isn't our Museum beautiful with its fresh, new coat of paint! The color is Classic White and Anderson's Paint Store mixed it to duplicate a paint chip that our architect, Gary Cooper, asked them to match. We have received a phone call asking if we were "putting up aluminum siding!" The paint job looks so good that that person suspected we are using non-authentic siding! Just wait until the fence goes up and the landscaping is in! Our Museum will be beautiful!

Englander's Furniture Store, located at 2333 South State Street, will be hosting its third annual Holiday Christmas Tree Trimming Contest soon. WCHS has participated the past two years and will do so again this season. The first prize for the non-profit group's tree that garners the most "votes" will be $1,000; second prize: $750; and the third prize: $500. Each dollar donated to WCHS counts as one "vote" and will be added to our Museum Fund, at the end of the contest. Last year, WCHS earned over 7,000 "votes." The winner, the Cancer Society, earned over 17,000 "votes." You may visit the Englander Store to cast votes between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Pauline Walters, 662-9092

## KAREN'S COLUMN

I want to give special thanks to the two who have been responsible for the careful accounting and disbursement of museum funds to date. **Thelma Graves** and **Esther Warzynski** have done a terrific job keeping track of every donation and every bill. They have supplied timely and accurate reports to the Board since the beginning of the project and have contributed many hours to the Society.

Thelma Graves, you will recall, is the one who first notified the Society about the availability of the Wall Street house. The rest, as they say, is history. Esther Warzynski has had a long involvement with WCHS, serving as a Board member and officer. She capably arranged programs for several years as vice president. My personal thanks for their interest and support. We would not be where we are now without the help of these two dedicated workers. Patty Creal, Society Treasurer, will be fully utilizing her new computer program, looking after the museum funds as well as the Society's finances.

A list of tasks to complete the exterior of the **Museum on Main Street** has been put together by our architect Gary Cooper of Quinn Evans/Architects This fall we hope to complete the following:

Complete painting, including porches, doors, basement door and basement stair wall;

Install storm doors and stoops;

Install two new back doors, (needed for egress from basement, and for handicapped entrance);

Complete landscaping, exterior lighting;

Install fences, at north property line, screen fences and gate at meters;

Construct porch railings, lattice and make improvements to front door, railing and wall cap at basement stairs;

Install decorative wood fence and signs.

That is our agenda for the next several months.

As winter approaches, we will be looking for someone to shovel our walks and keep our parking lot clear of snow. If anyone knows where we might be able to get this service donated, I would appreciate knowing about it.

Karen O'Neal, 665-2242

## TOUR OF THE SHARON MILL WINERY OCT. 18TH

Autumn harvest time calls for a trip into the county countryside to savor the sights and smells of the season.

The Hawker family have restored a 19th century grist mill, once owned by Henry Ford, and operate the historic site as a winery featuring Michigan wines from Old Mission Peninsula. They will conduct the society on a tour of the winery and mill and will treat members to a tasting. A modest admission fee of $2.00 per person may be applied to any wine purchase.

In order to avoid congestion, members are asked to convene at 12:30 a.m. at the Mill. See map and driving directions, and allow 35 minutes drive time from Main and Stadium to the Mill.

### DIRECTIONS TO THE SHARON MILL

Take Ann Arbor Saline Road southwest to Pleasant Lake Road, turn right (west)

Take Pleasant Lake Road west to dead-end at Parker Road, turn left (south)

Take Parker for only a **short** distance to Pleasant Lake Road, turn right (west)

Take Pleasant Lake Road west beyond M52 and Sylvan Road to end. It curves left (south) and becomes Sharon Hollow Road.

The Mill is on your left at the bridge.

Driving time will vary. From the corner of Main and Stadium, the distance to the mill takes 30 - 35 minutes.

**IMPORTANT**

**October 18th Meeting Information Above!!!**

ANN ARBORITES HAVE A PLAN,

# HOW TO RENOVATE TIGER STADIUM

"Ask the players or ask the fans. The most beautiful park in baseball is Tiger Stadium. It's a baseball treasure and, fortunately for us, it's right here in Detroit. Players love it because of its intimacy. Fans are close and the atmosphere is electric. Tradition, charm, baseball lore and modernization have made the great old park colorful, comfortable and safe. Tiger Stadium is a state landmark. It's a focal point from which all else is measured."

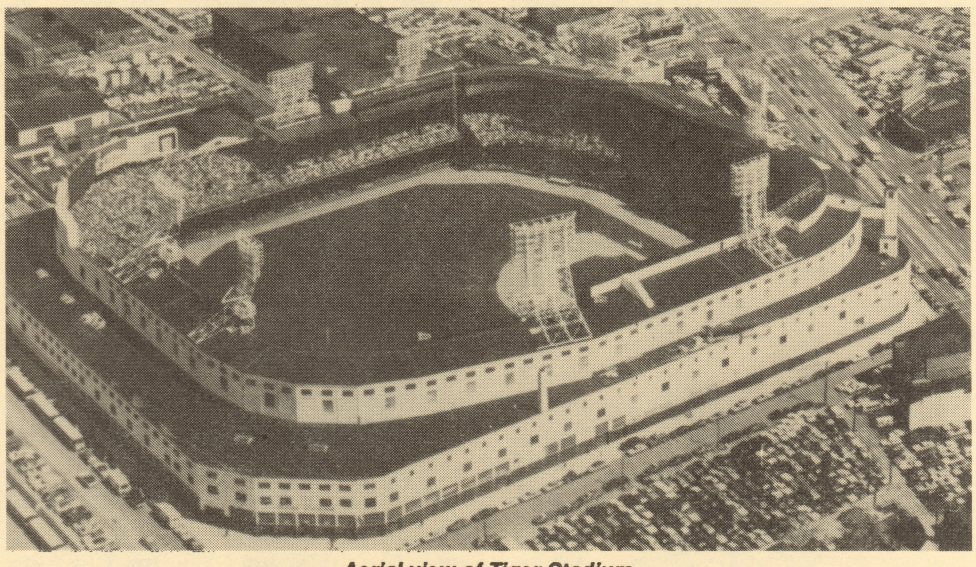
Joe O'Neal of O'Neal Construction Company in Ann Arbor read the above quote to begin his presentation to WCHS on his ingenious plan to renovate Tiger Stadium rather than build a new one.

The above quote came from the Detroit Tigers official scorebook and program for the 1987 American League Championship Series. Yet, since then, the Tiger organization and other officials seem to think only a new stadium will do.

O'Neal's plan, developed in conjunction with Gunnar Birkerts of Gunnar Birkerts & Associates architectural firm and Robert Darvas, to renovate the stadium was first presented in 1988. Now that the Tigers have been sold, O'Neal was asked to present the Birkerts-O'Neal plan to the new owner, Mike Ilich. WCHS had a preview of that presentation.

Joining with O'Neal in the presentation was Dr. Robert Darvas, a structural engineer and University of Michigan professor of architecture who did the structural design for this plan.

"Given the choice of playing on one of the brand new stadium diamonds or Tiger Stadium," O'Neal said, "wouldn't you rather follow the likes of Tigers Hank Greenberg, Ty Cobb, Charlie Gehringer, Mickey Cochrane, Al Kaline, Willie Horton, Norm Cash, Denny McLean, Jim Northrup, Mark Fidrych, Alan Trammell, Lou Whittaker, Frank Tanana and Cecil Fielder, just to name a few?" In addition, famous players of other teams, such as Ted Williams, Lou Gehrig, Reggie Jackson, Nolan Ryan, Satchel Paige, Mickey Mantle, Bob Feller, Babe Ruth and thousands more have played on that field.



*Aerial view of Tiger Stadium.*

Prior to 1900, Detroit's hay market was located where the ball diamond now stands. However, baseball was first played at Michigan and Trumbull in 1896. Nine world series were played there, four world championships were won as a result of those world series. It has been the site of three All-Star games. It has the only double deck bleachers of any ball park in existence. Virtually every single American League player has played in Tiger Stadium and quite a few of the major National League players. Its records exist for 96 years. Boston's Fenway Park and Chicago's Wrigley Field are two old parks but neither are as old as Tiger Stadium.

Tiger Stadium is listed as one of the 11 most endangered historic places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a trust established by the United States Congress to save our heritage.

The shape of the stadium reflects the pressures of the city. It got its shape from the surrounding streets--Michigan, Trumbull, National Avenue (now Cochrane) and Cherry Street (now under the left field stands) and Kaline. The upper deck forms a porch in right field, the only stadium with such a condition. If a fly ball is hit into this area, the porch catches it because the porch overhangs the field by 15 feet. The overhang is caused by Trumbull at that point: they could not move Trumbull so they had to move the stadium inward.

Tiger Stadium was also the home of the Detroit Lions football team from 1938 to 1975 until they moved to the Silverdome. Mr. Fetzer of the Tigers, when requested by the Silverdome Committee to move the Tigers to the Silverdome, responded with that famous statement that "this franchise belongs to the inner city of Detroit. I am but the caretaker."

If the stadium could speak it would tell you many stories. It could tell you about Cobb's lake, located at home plate. Cobb would have grounds-keepers put water in front of home plate. If he hit a bunt, the ball would stop almost instantaneously. If a base player or the pitcher tried to get it, they would slip and go by it. By then Cobb would be on first base. Tiger Stadium could tell you it heard Martin Luther King speak there, also Nelson Mandela. It would say, "I have stood by you during World War I. You came down and forgot some of the things that were bothering you. I did that for you in the Great Depression, again in World War II and again in 1968 when I gave you a world championship team so you could begin the healing process from those devastating riots of 1967."

When the Detroit baseball diamond was known as Bennett Park, home plate was at the corner of Michigan and Trumbull. When Mr. Navin built the first stadium, only one deck in 1912, home plate was moved to the corner of Cochrane and Michigan. The 1912 concrete stadium structure is still in place. In 1924 he double-decked it

from third base around to first and added a press box. In 1935-36, Navin added double-decking from third base along Trumbull, and the bleachers. The plan was for Mr. Navin to close in the corner but he died. Mr. Briggs finished it. They added lights in 1948, the last major stadium to add them, except for Chicago's Wrigley Field which added theirs only about two years ago.

There's no doubt the Tigers need something done to their home. No one could argue that you could leave that stadium alone and continue using it the way it is. The team, fan, press and office facilities are not right. They've outgrown all of those various facilities. They do not need, however, a brand new stadium. There is nothing wrong with the stadium's concrete or steel, as Bob Darvas will attest. You can renovate that stadium and bring it up to and past any of the new stadiums of today.

When Tom Monaghan bought the team in 1983 he stated, "As long as I own this team we will not build a new stadium." In *Detroit Monthly* of May 1988, Monaghan stated, "With the cost of a new stadium, it seems like you can do an awful lot of improvement on the existing stadium for that kind of money." But soon after May 1988, Monaghan said his dreams to renovate the stadium could not be realized because there are obstructed view seats that cannot be removed.

"Those words caught my attention," O'Neal said. "Drawings of the structure were not available. I asked and received permission to crawl around the structure. I measured each member--all beams, lengths, sizes. I started to study how to get rid of those columns. One logical way is to reach out with a structure to grab hold of and support the upper deck and then remove the columns.

"In looking at the drawing it occurred to me that if we lifted the upper deck about 11 feet and moved it away from the field about 20 feet, you could cut the load carried by those columns considerably."

With that in mind, we drew a very rough sketch showing a possible way to do that. I took it to my friend Bob Darvas and showed him my concept. He studied it and found that members of reasonable in size were structurally feasible.

## HE FLUSTERED PITCHER, STOLE BASE BACKWARDS

A gentleman named Herman "Germany" Shaefer in Tiger Stadium brought about the need for the rule that you cannot steal a base backwards.

"You might wonder why would anyone want to steal bases backwards," Joe O'Neal said. "There was a good method in his madness. He and his teammates would have a strategy that they wanted to implement.

"If the strategy failed, by stealing a base backwards they would try it again until it was successful. The pitcher would suddenly discover that the runner on second, instead of now being on third, was back on first and you could bet that the next four pitches would be balls and the opposing team would have two on instead of one.?

Darvas said, "Let's go talk to Gunnar Birkerts about it." I had never met Birkerts, someone of international fame in the world of architecture.

A meeting was arranged. Mr. Birkerts spent about 40 minutes explaining that this was not an architectural or engineering or sports problem. It's going to be a political problem and we would be wasting our time and he did not want to get involved. "But you've come this far, let's look at your drawings," he said.

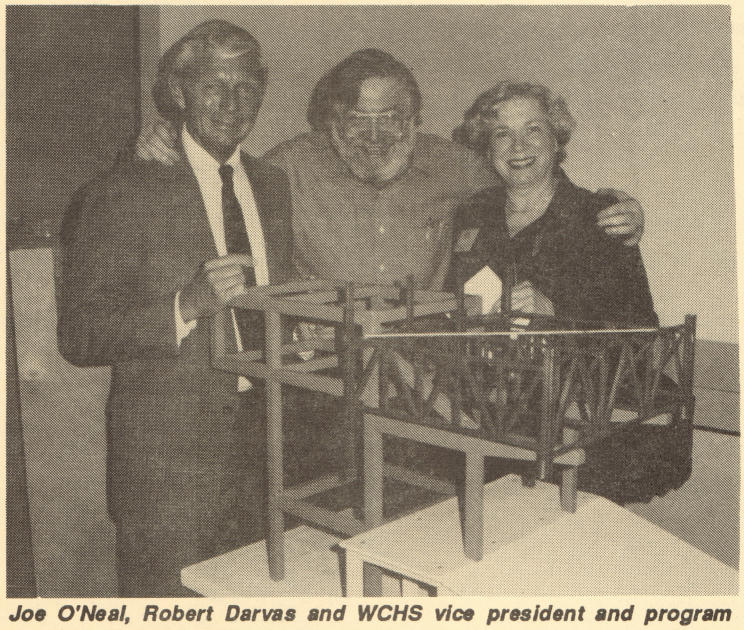
We got them out and showed them to him. In the next 20 minutes he was on the phone to Tom Monaghan to arrange a meeting to show Monaghan this concept.

Though we could not convince Monaghan to fund further study of the concept, he expressed an interest in our ideas and suggested, if we believed in them, we might pursue it on our own. We decided to go ahead ourselves. Bob did the structural design. I built the models. I helped with the architecture and Birkerts donated a major chunk of the architecture. We put together our plan, and took it back to Mr. Monaghan and the Tiger management.

When O'Neal, Birkerts and Darvas first went to the Tigers, they were given a list of all the amenities they felt were necessary and required in a new stadium. For example, 230 lavatories, 330 water closets, three acres of concession and storage area, 1,600 square feet of first aid space, home club house of 5,720 square feet, etc.

Darvas had the challenge of making a structure that would work; Birkerts had the challenge of taking the Tigers' program and placing it into the resulting structural system and existing Tiger Stadium. "We did everything they wanted. We went to the meeting and showed them what we had done". They looked at it and said, "We still need a new stadium."

In January 1991, Wayne County officials announced they were going to study renovation versus a new stadium. The design team took their concept to the county and their engineers who reviewed its feasibility. Birkerts, O'Neal and Darvas showed it to Ed McNamara, Wayne County administrator, and Michael Duggan, his deputy; to Wayne County commissioners, Mayor Coleman Young and SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments). McNamara and Duggan were favorably



***Joe O'Neal, Robert Darvas and WCHS vice president and program chairperson, Mary Culver looking over a model showing how Tiger Stadium's upper deck can be moved and the obstructing columns removed***

Duggan were favorably impressed with the concept. But when the Tigers announced their position in an Economic Club of Detroit speech, they said they had to have a brand new stadium.

### DIAMOND HAD FOUR NAMES

Tiger Stadium has had four names in its lifetime:

Bennett Park until 1912
Navin Field, 1912-1938
Briggs Stadium, 1938-1961
Tiger Stadium, 1961-present.

The condition of Tiger Stadium is excellent. The sight lines in this stadium would equal or exceed any of the new stadiums that have been built.

"Another major part of our plan is that we can keep the stadium in operation while this is being implemented," O'Neal said. O'Neal's model demonstrated how the upper deck could be lifted and moved back creating a much wider concourse for people's movement, more toilets and concession stands, it was noted. The structure could be built while they are playing games, then sections of the upper deck, roof and lights removed, severed and moved up onto the new supporting arms with the aid of hydraulic jacks. "There are professionals who do nothing but lift structures," O'Neal said.

He demonstrated the proposed move on his model, showing how the obstructing columns could be removed. In the process, 11 feet would become available in which to put the world's closest-to-the-field deluxe seating--the loges. There's no doubt the Tigers need the income from them. You have also removed twenty feet of obstruction when you are sitting in the lower deck. When a fly ball goes up and comes down, people sitting in the back of the lower deck lose it. While those in back will still lose it, the point of losing it has been moved 20 feet back into the lower decks.

"Frank Rashid, a founder of the Detroit Tiger Stadium Fan Club said, "It would be just plain wrong to stand by and allow hundreds of millions of dollars to go into an unwanted, unneeded play field for millionaires when our children have so few clean places to play." In addition, I would say it would be a crime to spend hundreds of millions of dollars when Detroit has so much in the way of homelessness, unemployment, decay, hunger, loss of spirit, and no money for the arts.

Jack Walter, former president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation said, 'When we preserve our past we preserve what unites us, not what divides us, which is why cities that do preserve the best of their heritage and culture have more soul and more community spirit than those that do not.'"

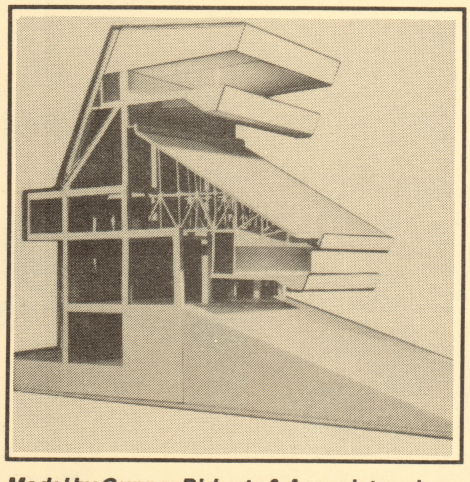
He showed several slides inside the stadium including the steel structure, pointing out the existing trusses and where new ones would go. "There is nothing wrong with the structure--all it needs is normal maintenance just as your house needs a coat of paint every so often," Darvas noted.

The roof would be taken off in, perhaps, 200 foot segments, he said. "Hopefully that could be done off-season. Then those segments of upper deck would be lifted into place on the new structural frame."

"When the upper deck has been lifted and pushed back, the seats are still going to be closer to the field than any new stadium in the country. "That is the beauty of Tiger Stadium--people are very close to the field and these loges are going to be closer than anywhere else including the Palace indoor arena where the Pistons basketball team plays.

"Birkerts proposes that there be some glassed-in dining facilities in the upper level where you can eat while you watch your favorite baseball team play. The demolition required to site a new stadium in the Woodward area would consume five years of landfill volume.

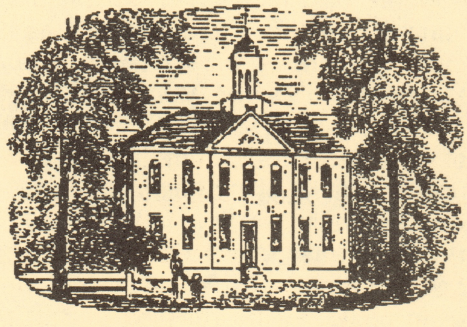
"I also approach this not as just an engineering problem. I'm a firm believer in historic preservation. In fact, I coined the phrase that people who don't take care of their past don't have much of a future either," Darvas said.



***Model by Gunnar Birkerts & Associates showing the relocated upper deck and loges and expanded concession area.***

## TIGER VIDEO: "SHARED TREASURES"

A copy of the VHF video, "Shared Treasures" may be ordered by calling 769-0770 and ask for Cathy. The cost is $12 + $1.75 postage/handling.



## "WHAT IS IT?" GAME OFFERED SCHOOLS AND GROUPS

WCHS offers a traveling exhibit of small artifacts set up as a humorous "What is it?" game to schools for children and another for adults. They are available for classes and meetings subject to volunteer availability. For information call Arlene Schmid, 665-8773.

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

118th Annual Meeting and state history conference will be held October 16-18, 1992 in Petoskey, Michigan. Call (313) 769-1828 for information.

# THE JOHN MAYNARD HOUSE

218 N. Division, Maynard House
photo taken circa 1909 by Lucy Chapin before alterations
photo from Chapin Collection, Bentley Library

***The house was substantially altered by the Dobsons around 1910 when the large porch,roof dormers, and the two-story center portico were added in the popular Colonial Revival style. The main entry was then shifted from the center of the house to the south side, where it remains today. These additions are now considered historically significant in their own right. Photographs taken in 1909 by Miss Lucy Chapin, however, document the earlier structure before it was remodeled.***

When John W. Maynard constructed this center-entry brick house in 1838, Catherine Street did not yet extend past Division Street. Although previous histories have put the date of construction at 1844, deeds suggest it was built around 1838. Maynard, a successful grocer with a store on Ann Street, had come to Ann Arbor as a child only months after John Allen and Elisha Rumsey founded the town in 1824. In a letter dated June of that year, John's father, Ezra, a farmer in Pittsfield Township, wrote the first eyewitness account of the emerging village.

John's brother, William S. Maynard, became very wealthy as a real estate developer and helped lure the University of Michigan to Ann Arbor by donating part of the original 40-acre campus. William served two terms as Mayor of Ann Arbor and Maynard Street is named after him. He built himself a high-style Italianate house at the northwest corner of Main and William Streets (demolished in 1990) that was famous for its greenhouse and for the peacocks in its garden.

John W. Maynard kept a lower profile than his brother and built himself a more old-fashioned house. His architectural sensibilities were recognized, though, for a *Michigan Argus* account in 1849 entitled "Notes on Our Village, No. 4," included his house among those that exhibited "the style of architecture which is an ornament to our village, and evinces the taste, judgment and liberality of their owners." Today John's house is one of a row of important buildings on large lots with deep setbacks lining the east side of Division Street north of Huron Street. Rare survivors in central Ann Arbor, they exemplify the mid-19th century look and feel of the town.

Members of the Maynard family occupied the house for over half a century. A decade after Catherine Street was extended in 1898 from Division to State Street, the property was sold to Russell T. Dobson, publisher of the *Ann Arbor Times*, a local newspaper. Pneumonia took Dobson's life in 1938 and the house was sold to the Christian Reformed Church for a student center. Around 1950 it was purchased by the Episcopal Student Foundation of St. Andrew's Church, given the name "Canterbury House," and used as a center for their outreach program. In 1992 the house was sold to the Trailblazers Association and opened as a clubhouse for persons recovering from a mental illness.

## HOW TO JOIN WCHS

Send name, address and phone number with check or money order payable to Washtenaw County Historical Society to: WCHS Membership, c/o Patty Creal, Treasurer, 2655 Esch Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Information: 662-9092. Formal membership renewal notices will be mailed in early November:

Annual dues, beginning in 1993, are:

| | |
|---|---|
| Students | $10 |
| Senior (age 60 and older) | 10 |
| Senior Couple (one 60+) | 19 |
| Individual | 15 |
| Family (household of parents/children) | 25 |
| Patron | 100 |
| Association / business | 50 |

## VCR POINTS

We are nearing our goal of 16,509 Bill Knapp Restaurant points by the October 31st deadline. We are currently at 83%. Anyone who dines at Knapp's Restaurant can request a yellow points slip from the cashier each time they dine, with one point for each dollar spent. Please give or mail your points to Alice Ziegler, 537 Riverview Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Call 663-8826.

## KEMPF HOUSE PLANS WEDNESDAY BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

| | |
|---|---|
| October 14 | Speaker: Nancy Butler, Master Gardener. "Gardens for the Seasons." |
| October 21 | Speaker: Cindy Ruffner. "Period Details and Painted Faux Finishes." |
| October 28 | Speaker: Irene Raymond. "Antique Dolls." |
| November 4 | Speaker: Larry Darling. "Building Restoration." |
| November 11 | Speaker: Louisa Pieper. "Early Ann Arbor: The Washtenaw/Hill Neighborhood." |
| November 18 | Speaker: Ina Hanel. "Lebkuchen Christmas Tree Decorations." |

Kempf House is open to the public on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m and Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. There is a one dollar donation requested for persons over 12 years of age.

Kempf House is available for rental for small weddings, meetings and/or receptions. Call Elaine Owsley, 426-4980 for information.

## CERTIFICATES OFFERED

Hand-lettered certificates are offered free of charge, framed if desired, by WCHS to organizations for milestone anniversaries. Information, call 663-8826.

## JOHN MAYNARD HOUSE OPEN HOUSE

On Sunday, November 15, 1992, from 2 to 5 p.m., the Trailblazers of Washtenaw, Inc. will hold an open house at their newly acquired property at 218 N. Division Street, (the John W. Maynard House). Known for years as Canterbury House, the property changed hands this summer. The Trailblazers, an organization for persons recovering from a mental illness, will use this historic house as a clubhouse for its members and wants to showcase both their mission and the historical aspects of the house to the public. The house is a designated significant structure in the Old Fourth Ward Historic District.

## GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHTENAW COUNTY

Their October meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on the 25th at Washtenaw Community College, 4800 East Huron River Drive (Ann Arbor Township), LSA Building's second floor Lecture Hall II. Steven H. Goldstein will present, "Jewish Research." The topic of the class is the 1920 Federal Census which will be presented by Carole C. Callard. A short business meeting precedes the program.

## A NOTE FROM THELMA & ESTHER

*To all donors*

As retiring Co-Treasurers of the **Museum on Main Street** Building Fund during Phase I of the fund-raising drive, we extend our deep appreciation to all donors who gave so generously to achieve the moving and settling of the 1830's house on its present Main Street site. Our efforts would not have been possible without your support and dedication. We look forward with anticipation to Phase II of the fund drive. You have our gratitude.

Thelma Graves
Esther Warzynski

## RESULTS OF MEIJER COUPONS

Several of our members came forward with their surplus coupons. We were able to put together three complete sets of ten receipts for a total of $225 worth of gift certificates that could be used for steel shelving for storage in our basement.

Our thanks go to: Jan Azary, Barbara Longo, Betty & Bob Miller, Kathy VanGasse, J. M. Sartin, R. A. Sutherland, Karen O'Neal and Diane Ferguson.

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**WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**"THE SHARON MILL WINERY"**

**12:30 P.M. Sunday**
**October 18, 1992**

**Sharon Hollow Road**
**(35 minutes from Stadium)**

**WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
2200 Fuller Road, 1202 B
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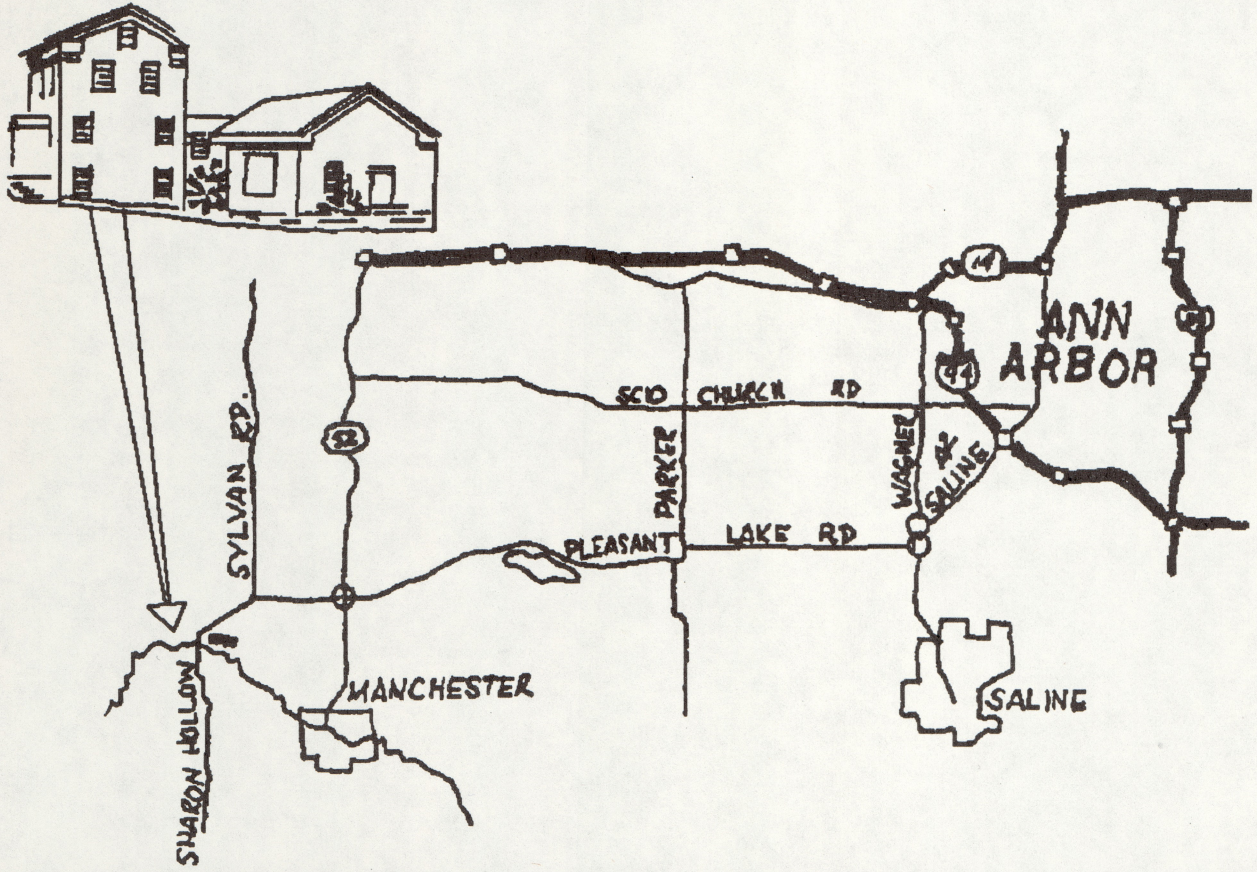
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